**3rd International Surrogacy Forum 2025**

Organised by the **[Nordic Centre for International and Comparative Family Law](https://www.law.aau.dk/forskning/forskningsorganisering/Nordic%2BCentre%2Bfor%2BComparative%2Band%2BInternational%2BFamily%2BLaw%2B%28NorFam%29/)** (NorFam) and co-organised by [**Miller du Toit Cloete Inc**](https://www.mdtcinc.co.za/)., the Law Faculty of the [**University of the Western Cape**](https://www.uwc.ac.za/study/faculties-and-programmes/faculty-of-law/overview) (UWC), the [**International Academic of Family Lawyers** (](https://www.iafl.com/)IAFL) and the [**American Bar Association**](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/family_law/) (ABA), Section of Family Law.

[**The President Hotel**](https://www.presidenthotel.co.za/)**, Cape Town, South Africa**

**24 and 25 March 2025**

**Programme**

**DAY 1: DEVELOPMENTS IN SURROGACY AROUND THE GLOBE**

Registration from 8.45

9.00: Organisers’ welcome – Jens M. Scherpe (NorFam), Rich Vaughn (ABA), Zenobia du Toit (Miller du Toit Cloete Inc.), Julia Sloth-Nielsen (UWC) and Rachael Kelsey (IAFL)

**SESSION 1: Africa – Part 1**

Chair: Julia Sloth–Nielsen, UWC, South Africa

09.30: **South Africa: View from the Bench**- The Honourable Judge Andre Le Grange,
High Court, Cape Town

 **South Africa: Litigating Surrogacy** – Donrich Thaldar, University of Kwazulu-Natal

09.50: **Botswana** – Bonolo Dinokopila, University of the Free State, and

Tebogo Jobeta, University of Botswana

10.10 **Namibia** – Carli Schickerling, Schickeringling Attorneys, Windhoek, Namibia

10.30: **Nigeria** – Undiga Emuekpere, Ôka'mara Law & Consulting, Abuja, Nigeria

10.50 Discussion

11.10 Coffee break

**SESSION 2: AFRICA – PART 2**

Chair: Zaina Mahmoud, University of Liverpool, England

11.30: **Ghana** – Bobby Banson, Robert Smith Law Group, Accra, Ghana

11.50: **Uganda** – Sarah Opendi, MP

12.10 **Kenya** – Millie Grace Akoth Odhiambo Mabona, MP

12.30 Discussion

12.50 Lunch

**SESSION 3: EUROPE – PART 1**

Chair: Rose-Marie Drury, Mills & Reeve LLP, Manchester, England

14.15: **Ireland** – Claire O’Connell, LGBT Ireland

14.35 **Italy** – Marco Poli, University of Turin, Italy

14.55: **United Kingdom – What is happening to the reform proposals?** – Prof. Nicholas Hopkins, Law Commission of England and Wales

15.15: Discussion

15.35: Coffee break

**SESSION 4: EUROPE – PART 2**

Chair: Claire Fenton-Glynn, Monash University, Australia

16.00 **Denmark** – Lene Wacher Lentz, Aalborg University, Denmark

16.20: **Greece/Cyprus** – Dafni Lima, Durham University, England

16.40 Discussion

**SESSION 5: rest of the World**

Chair: Rachael Kelsey, SKO Family Law Specialists, Edinburgh, Scotland

17.00: **Iran** – Nadjma Yassari, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne, Switzerland

17.20: New **Zealand** – Margaret Casey KC, Mills Lane Chambers, Auckland, New Zealand

17.40: Discussion

18.00: End of Day 1

**Evening event:**

[**Two Oceans Aquarium**](https://www.aquarium.co.za/)**, Cape Town, South AFrica**

**19.00 Drinks Reception**

**19.30 Anne-Marie Hutchinson Memorial Lecture**

Speaker: Barbara Conolly KC, 7 Bedford Row, London, England

followed by

**19.45 Gala Dinner**Dress Code: smart casual.

## DAY 2: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS AND EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

**SESSION 6: THE HAGUE WORKING GROUP;** **Advising clients on surrogacies in Africa Surrogacy; financial compensation**

Chair: Ronli Sifris, Monash University, Australia

9.00: **Update from The Hague Working Group** – Jemma Dally, Goodman Ray Solicitors, London, England

9.20: **Advising European clients on surrogacies in Africa** – Mavis Amonoo-Acquah, Harcourt Chambers, London, England

9.40 **Surrogacy and financial compensation** – Sarah Jefford, Coburg, Victoria, Australia

10.00: **Surrogacy in America after revocation of birthright?** Nidhi Desai, Desai & Miller, Chicago, USA, and Bruce Hale, Boston, USA

10.20 Discussion

10.40: Coffee break

**SESSION 7: Post-birth contact; need for a genetic link; Personal Connections**

Chair: Stephanie M. Brinkley, Brinkley Law Firm LLC, Charleston, USA

11.00: **Post-birth contact between the surrogate and the child** – Fatima Ebrahim, UWC

11.20: **Surrogacy contracts and the need for a genetic link** – Brigitte Clark, University of Kwazulu-Natal, and Belinda van Heerden, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa

11.40: **Going full circle in ART– when the attorney becomes the client** – Samantha Lewis, Miller du Toit Cloete Inc., Cape Town

12.00: Discussion

**SESSION 8: THE RIGHTS OF THE surrogate-born child**

Chair: Hilka Hollman, Dawson Cornwell, London

12.20 **A right to procreate?** Meryl Rosenberg, ARTparenting, Maryland, USA

12.40 **Psychological perspectives on children born through surrogacy**, Daksha Hargovan, Clinical Psychologist, Cape Town

13.00 Discussion

13.20 Lunch

## Afternoon: Visit to the [University of the Western Cape](https://www.uwc.ac.za/study/faculties-and-programmes/faculty-of-law/overview)

14.15 **Bus transfer** to UWC

15.00 **Tour of University**; learn about the [history of the University](https://www.uwc.ac.za/about/uwc-at-a-glance/history) and its role in the struggle against apartheid

16.00 **Global Surrogacy Forum Round Table**

17.45 Finger buffet

18.30 **Bus transfer** to The President Hotel